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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Yasumasa MIZUSHIMA et al.

Serial No.: 10/008,443

Filed: December 3, 2001

For: INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS AND
INFORMATION PROCESSING METHOD, NETWORK SYSTEM,
RECORDING MEDIUM, AND COMPUTER PROGRAM

Group A.U.: 2167

#17 Pre Amndt A
J H May 14 02

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited this date with
the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail addressed to:
Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

JAY H. MAIOLI
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Technology Center 2100

May 14, 2002
1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the initial examination of the above-identified application, Applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure by rewriting same to read as follows:

A1
--An information processing apparatus that executes processing of a message transmitted among a plurality of sites